

9/15/70

Dear Jim:

I apologize for the delay in replying to your August 17 letter which unfortunately travelled from Washington to San Clemente and back.

I will be glad to do what I can to help you pursue your explorations of the Presidency within the limitations of the President's very heavy schedule. If you can give me an idea of the kinds of things you are interested in, the people you wish to see, and your timing, we will see what can be done.

Warm regards,

(SIGNED)

Henry A. Kissinger

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

August 17, 1970

Mr. Henry Kissinger
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Henry:

As you know, I am a student of the Presidency and have been trying to study it from all angles of vision over the last fifteen or twenty years. I have found it invaluable to talk with White House people, since I feel that the view from outside tends always to be a bit detached and academic.

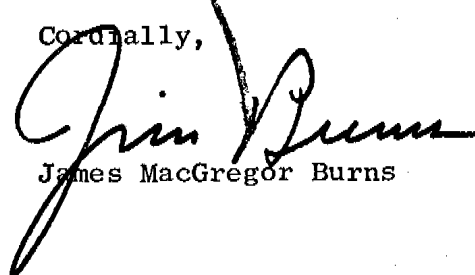
I began my researches, in effect within the Presidency, during the Eisenhower Presidency, when I had the good fortune to interview then Vice President Nixon at some length about both the Vice Presidency and his views of the Presidency. The results of this interview appeared in the New York Times Sunday Magazine.

During both the Kennedy and Johnson Presidencies I had the advantage of talking with White House staff people and with both Presidents. I used the resulting material both in articles for the Times Magazine or for Life, and for more scholarly writing on the Presidency.

As the Nixon Presidency approaches its two-year anniversary this fall, I would like very much to continue my explorations. I would like to follow the same pattern -- that is, to talk briefly with the President -- for not over half an hour -- and a bit more extensively with key staff members. I am well aware of the pressures on the time, particularly of the President, but also of his aides, but I believe that I can boil down my essential questions to a relatively short period of time.

I can develop all this much more extensively, giving some idea of the kinds of questions I would be interested in in advance, but I am writing now to ask your advice as to whether I might submit such a query for interviews to you, or in some other fashion. The only other person on the White House Staff whom I have known -- and who knows me -- is Pat Moynihan. I would greatly appreciate any advice or assistance you could give me on this matter.

Cordially,


James MacGregor Burns

JMB:fb